

6. Claims 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cipolla et al. (US PAT: 6,587,151, hereinafter Cipolla) in view of Murata et al. (US PAT: 5,691,766, hereinafter Murata).

Regarding claim 15, Cipolla discloses video conference system (col. 1 lines 34-38), comprising: a computer (11, fig. 9), and a camera movable between a first position (stored position, fig. 10) and second position (usable position, fig. 9), wherein the camera is enclosed in the computer in the first position (fig. 10) and is ejected to be mechanically detached from the computer in the second position (fig. 9), the camera being electrically coupled to the computer in the second position (fig. 9; col. 5, lines 49-66; col. 6 lines 11-50)

Cipolla differs from claimed invention in that although it would be inherent to keep the camera in power off state when in stored position as shown in fig. 10 in order not to waste electrical power and turn on power to camera when it is removed from the stored state to use state when it is mechanically detached as shown in fig. 9, he does not specifically teach: camera is in a power-off state when enclosed in a computer in the first position and automatically transitions to a power on state as the camera is ejected and physically moves from the first position in the computer to the second position.

However, Murata teaches the following: camera light is in a power-off state when enclosed in a camera device in the first position and automatically transitions to a power on state as the camera light is ejected from the stowed position (fig. 9, col. 4 lines 25-38).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Cipolla's system to provide for the following: camera is in a power-off state when enclosed in a computer in the first position and automatically transitions to a power on state as the camera is ejected and physically moves from the first position in the computer to the second position as this arrangement would provide the most obvious solution to conserve electrical power when the devices are not in use as taught by Murata.

Regarding claims 16, Cipolla further teaches the following: camera (1, fig. 10) has a housing that is completely disposed in the first position such that housing forms an exterior surface of the computer as shown fig. 10.

Regarding claims 18-19, Cipolla further teaches the following : computer (11, fig. 9) comprises a mounting member (57, fig. 10), wherein the mounting member is disposed inside the computer in the first position and extends outwardly from the computer in the second position, camera is mechanically connected to the mounting member while in the first position (fig. 10, col. 5, lines 49-66; col. 6 lines 11-50)

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melur Ramakrishnaiah whose telephone number is (571)272-8098. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 Hr schedule.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curt Kuntz can be reached on (571) 272-7499. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Melur Ramakrishnaiah/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2614